



Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab

Frequently Asked Questions

The Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab is an exciting enterprise development programme that aims to support the growth of 25 social entrepreneurs who are tackling pressing social, environmental, and economic issues in South Africa.

This 18-month programme will provide business support solutions to assist social entrepreneurs to significantly change their growth trajectory and achieve the full potential impact of their social enterprise.

The Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab is implemented in collaboration with Fetola - social entrepreneurs with over ten years' hands-on experience in successfully boosting the growth and long-term survival of businesses across all sectors in South Africa.

What are we looking for?

We are in search of disruptive social entrepreneurs who are creating social impact in their daily operations and are looking to scale their businesses.

What do you mean by social enterprise?

A social enterprise is an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in financial, social and environmental well-being. This includes maximizing social impact alongside profits for external shareholders.

What is the cost of the programme?

Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab is a national programme that is funded by FNB. Once the social entrepreneurs have been selected, all costs related to the programme will be covered by FNB.

I have a non-profit organisation, may I apply?

We are looking for businesses which are commercially self-sustaining and the entrepreneur is willing to scale their business therefore NPO's are not eligible

I'm a start-up, do I qualify?

Yes, if your business has been operating for more than 6 months and has a financial operating track record. Businesses in ideation and concept phase are not eligible.



Who may apply?

Black owned (51% or higher black shareholding) social enterprises which have been operational for at least 6 months, have a proven business track record and a turnover of less than R50 million per annum.

How are the 25 social entrepreneurs selected?

All entries are assessed based on the following criteria (but not limited to):

- Coachability of the entrepreneur and fit to program values and objectives
- Job creation potential of the business
- Social impact potential of the business
- Technology readiness level of the business
- Investment readiness of the business
- Scalability of the business

What does the programme entail?

The programme covers comprehensive business support to assist the business to scale and maximize social impact. The various components include:

- Mentorship
- Access to markets
- Business skills training
- Peer networking
- Media
- Access to finance
- Business support tools and resources
- Technical consulting and so much more.

I have a full-time job, can I apply?

We understand that many entrepreneurs start their businesses whilst still employed and would be open to considering applications in this regard provided there is clear commitment to a transition strategy within the next 6-12 months.



Is there funding available as part of the programme?

There is no guaranteed funding as part of this programme, however the intention is to facilitate appropriate finance opportunities to entrepreneurs.

Is this programme for South Africans only? What if I have a citizenship/permit?

The programme is for South African citizens only, where the shareholding of the business is at least 51% black owned and the turnover is less than R50 Million per annum.

How do I apply?

Visit the Fetola website and select 'Our initiatives' from the top navigation. Click on the Social Entrepreneurship Impact Lab banner to access the application portal.

Who can we contact for further information?

Please send your enquiries to FNBimpactlab@fetola.co.za or contact 086 111 1690.